

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Report on the Council Chairmen's Meeting
 June 18-20, 1979
 Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

The Council Chairmen's meeting, a semi-annual affair so far, was held June 19 and 20 at the Sheraton, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. It was preceded by a one-day Executive Director's meeting at the same location. A list of the people in attendance is attached to this report.

The most obvious feeling generated at this meeting was that now that the Councils have most of their operational problems solved and are working on management for their areas, they have less and less in common to discuss. The Councils are becoming truly regional in character so that things we might see as major problems are of little or no significance to many of the other Councils. The only feeling of strong unanimity by all of the Councils at this meeting was that Councils and staff should remain non-federal. On most of the other subjects that will probably be considered at the Oversight Hearings there were varying degrees of agreement or complete lack of interest by some Councils.

All of the Councils were concerned about enforcement of both foreign and domestic fishing regulations, particularly as it related to the observer program and the need for accurate monitoring of catch statistics. NMFS is scheduled for 51 new positions and supporting money in FY80, but don't really expect to get the positions authorized. There was some indication that they might reprogram some of that money for the observer program, although that's certainly not guaranteed. All of the Councils were concerned about the inadequacy of the observer program and that is one area where there will be some agreement during the Oversight Hearings.

All of the Councils wanted more opportunity to review NMFS operating budgets and to have some input into them as they develop. Terry Leitzell promised a breakdown of their budget and we have been asked by Harry Rietze to work with them on developing the 1982 budget for the Alaska Region.

Joint ventures were discussed but no consensus was arrived at. The concept of closing some areas to joint ventures appears to be possible. It will depend on concrete proposals from the individual Councils to get a full review of the concept and legal feasibility.

The Council operating handbook is pretty well along. There is a workshop scheduled in Seattle July 17-19 for all three of the Pacific Councils to go through the draft before it is finalized later in the summer. The

work group is expected to include approximately three staff members from each of the three Councils involved and four or five of the NMFS Washington staff.

Discussion of changes to the FCMA or the administrative procedure deriving from it occupied a fair amount of the meeting's time. NMFS listed their proposals for testimony at the Oversight Hearings. Most of them are housekeeping changes. Some fall into the same areas this Council has been developing.

1. Change the FCMA report date to July 1 (now April 1).
2. Extend the jurisdiction of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council to cover some defense areas now in the FCZ but not in their present jurisdiction.
3. Extend the period the Secretary can implement emergency regulations to 90 days with a 90-day extension. The North Pacific Council has made a similar recommendation (now 45 and 45).
4. Expand the jurisdictional area of the Western Pacific Council to the northern Marianas, increase the Council to 13 voting members (add two more) -- one to be a Secretarial appointment, the other the chief fisheries officer for the northern Marianas.
5. Use a Notice of Availability and a short summary of FMPs in the Federal Register rather than printing the entire FMP; designed to save printing costs which now run up to \$20,000 for each plan.
6. Develop a procedure for seizing fish from ships apprehended for violations and allow a quick sale of the catch, the proceeds to be held until settlement of the litigation.
7. Allow a special procedure for foreign recreational fishermen to fish within the FCZ.
8. Amend the plan so that the Council can use confidential data prior to the implementation of an FMP. Currently the Act allows use of confidential data only after an FMP has been implemented.

Three more areas are being considered for testimony. The decision has not been made yet whether they should push them.

1. Improve the state-in-aid grant programs through better organization and coordination, and (hopefully) more funding for research and management in the territorial sea.
2. Examine the domestic fee structure to provide economic incentives and disincentives.

3. Clarify Council employee status as non-federal. Leitzell has pledged his personal support to that concept.

Leitzell's reaction to the Council's request for easing the requirements of the various supporting acts and executive orders to the FCMA was that they wanted to try administrative relief before trying to amend the Act.

The next Council chairmen's meeting was set for the Caribbean. The date has been left open. There was a fairly strong feeling among many of the Council chairmen that two meetings a year were not necessary, they should be either once a year or when there was a specific need.

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ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMEN'S MEETING

June 20, 1979

Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

A meeting of the Regional Council Chairmen was held on June 20, 1979 at the Sheraton, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

The following Council representatives were in attendance.

Mr. Hector M. Vega-Morera, Chairman	Caribbean Council
Mr. John A. Harms, Vice Chairman	
Mr. Omar Munoz-Roure, Executive Director	
Mr. David H.G. Gould, Vice Chairman	South Atlantic Council
Mr. Ernest D. Premetz, Executive Director	
Mr. Allen E. Peterson, Jr., Chairman	New England Council
Mr. Douglas G. Marshall, Executive Director	
Mr. Clement Tillion, Chairman	North Pacific Council
Mr. Harold E. Lokken, Vice Chairman	
Mr. Jim H. Branson, Executive Director	
Mr. John C. Marr, Executive Director	Western Pacific Council
Ms. Kitty Simonds, Executive Secretary	
Mr. John A. Martinis, Chairman	Pacific Council
Mr. Lorry M. Nakatsu, Executive Director	
Mr. John A. Mehos, Chairman	Gulf Council
Mr. David H. Hart, Chairman	Mid Atlantic Council
Mr. Elliot Goldman, Vice Chairman	
Mr. John C. Bryson, Executive Director	

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Also present were Mr. Terry Leitzell, Mr. William Gordon, Mr. Robert W. McVey, Mr. Floyd S. Anders, Jr., Mr. Harold B. Allen, Dr. Robert Hanks, Mr. Jay S. Johnson, Mr. Richard Gutting, Ms. Robin Waxman, Mr. David Rand, Mr. James Rote, Mr. Toshimasa Iuchi, Mr. Ellchi Sato, Ms. Lucy Sloan, Ms. Lyn DePalma and Ms. Nancy Weis served as recording secretary.